

# The Salvation Army

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"I SPENT NIGHT AFTER NIGHT READING INFIDEL BOOKS."

— LIFE OF —

## Richard Gilbert.

Thirty-Three Years an Infidel—  
Brought to the Saving Knowledge of Jesus Through the  
Persecution of the Sal-  
vation Army.

I was born at Oakville, Ont., in 1854, raised by Christian parents, and as I look back over the past and let my memory go in search of the earliest thing I can remember, it brings to my mind mother with me kneeling at her side teaching me to lip a prayer.

At the age of fourteen I began going to sea, and then started as it were a

### Life of the Deepest Sin.

Mother's teachings were soon forgotten, and I plunged headlong into sin and degradation, until about the age of 18, when I happened to attend a Methodist revival, and got rather in earnest about my soul's eternal welfare. I went forward and sought Salvation, and for a time thought I was alright, but before long something happened among the members, which upset us completely. Two of the leading members got quarrelling and disputing. I then and often had listened to their testimonies and prayers, and even now they were holding their same position in the church, making the same profession, yet so soon outside than so ready as could be to fight and dispute with each other. I knew this should not be, and it worked upon my mind quite a bit, and then not

long after they were holding a fellowship meeting, in which each gave their personal experience, the minister taking the lead, and in his testimony he said that of late, and especially during the past week, he had been strongly tempted to be an infidel. That was enough for me. I was

### Naturally a Born Sceptic.

It was always a thought which caused me quite a bit of studying and perplexity thinking "How Christ could be the Son of God," and now I threw up the whole affair in disgust and said religion was a sham. Here were leading members of a religious body fighting each other, and where was the difference between them, as followers of Christ, if there was such a being, and followers of the devil?

Nonsense to my mind. And their worst of all a minister, one fully given up to the service of God, saying he was almost tempted to become an infidel. Now, I thought, "If there was any man in the world who knew this man should know it, and if there was there would be no room for him to become an infidel, for after once knowing Christ he could not." So I made up my mind that the whole affair was a sham, and that

devil and pull down that of Christ's. But somewhere about this time I happened to be in Collingwood, and it was there that my ideas, as an infidel, were first shaken, through the

### Persecution of the Salvation Army.

I had seen these people upon the streets, had seen them imposed upon, saw the meanness with which they took all that was heaped upon them. While I noticed this, yet it made no impression upon me, for I thought, "They have no business in the streets doing as they did." But upon visiting their barracks and seeing the mean unprincipled way in which some, who would like to be classed and looked upon as men, yet lacking every degree of mankind, imposed upon them, even there within their own doors, and the meek, loving, Christlike way in which they bore it all, never retaliating in any sense of the word, but laboring away so patiently, wearing out their bodies, spending their strength for mankind, and as far as I could see, getting nothing but abuse in the end. It made me think there was a something about them different to other religious



"HE LEFT ME NO OPENING; NO CHANCE."

"And I laughed and said I guessed I had eaten too heartily before retiring, but I went away to my summer's work to be haunted by this dream. When I came home again in the fall I found that my oldest daughter had gone to St. Catharines to work at her trade as dressmaker, so at the weekend I went up to see her, and spent the Sunday, our home being at Jordan, nine miles away. After dinner on the Sunday, she said to me, 'Pa, come to the Army, will you?' 'Yes,' I said, 'I'm rather interested in these people.' I saw them once at Collingwood." So we went, and never will I forget the feeling that went over me as I entered their barracks, for there before my gaze were the posts and rafters I had seen in my dream. I could not take my eyes off them, and as I looked at them, walking up to a seat, I could feel my hair fairly stand on my head. What could it mean? I said nothing to my wife, but I felt rather odd, and went away.

### To be Tormented Again

that summer by the St. Catharines Army barracks with its posts and rafters. When I returned in the fall I had to go to Toronto to consult the late Dr. Merrick, as I was suffering from a terrible nervousness, which was and is even now, slowly but surely bringing me to the brink of the river. Death, although now, pray God, is far away, and I have been taken away. Upon my first visit he told me that to do anything for me was like taking a man out of his grave. I told him I did not think I was so bad as that, and asked him to give me a trial at least. It was weeks of treatment for about two months. He was a

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.]



A SAVED INFIDEL.

I would have nothing more to do with it, so I took to reading infidel books, and the devil took good care that I should be kept in a full supply. There was one man, an infidel, who had a large

### Library of Infidel Writings.

and he gave me the liberty of using any and all if I wished, of which liberty I properly availed myself. Although I say myself, I was a great reader and a deep thinker, not like some who try to pass for infidels now-a-days, and hardly care for what reason, but I was an infidel with my whole heart and soul. I spent nights after night reading infidel books and studying, and was well up in my profession.

Money was no object when my writing of infidelity presented itself to view. Of course I did not doubt so much about God, but Christ being his Son, to me was a great impossibility, and so I wandered on in sin. In open rebellion against God.

Of a truth I was a sinner of the deepest dye. For thirty-three years I did all I could to strengthen the stronghold of the

holdings, because I knew that they need not put up with the things that they did in the barracks, even if they had to out of doors, because law was on their side, and so it was through their patient unwariness that I was first led to think them different to other professors of religion.

Well, I went away, and all the summer those people used to be in my mind, I would think of them and wonder what made them different from others. I returned home again in the fall and stayed until the spring, when a sign made ready for my summer's work, which took me away from home, and just before I left one night

### I Had a Dream.

and thought I was in some large room, which was finished, but still the posts and rafters could be seen. The room was full of people, and I was flying about, and above them among those rafters, crying out, "Jesus Christ, is the Son of God." So loud did I cry, that I awoke the other inmates of the house, and finally myself. The next morning they asked me about it,



"I WAS SO ANXIOUS TO DO THE DEED, BUT HE STAYED ON."



"HE FAIRLY DRAUGHT ME."

















15. That's good, Brigadier Spooner. The London Brigade falls 33. Too bad!

Brigadier Margetta goes up to 4,635, but there is still a big gulf between his brigade and that of Brig. Jacobs'. Tholot er falls again. Oh, dear. True, it is only 10, but:

The Plucky Western Brigade goes up to 4.105, an increase of 25. That's the ticket, Major Morris. Greater things than these shall ye do. Brigadier Glover goes up 10.

increase all round your Brigades during the coming year. Push, push, push, and get all to feel interested in the sale of our valuable papers.

No change in the Toronto Division. Things are quiet round the Queen City. Major Baugh, what about the Moncton Division? No move at all. Why is this?

Now, ye Eastern D.O.'s, let the Cuy be wro  
pushed to the front. The Halifax Div.  
sion falls to. What a pity. Adje. Collier.

105 B.C. Division still 3,000. 1958  
100 Another good move around the Manitob.  
75 Division, two stations adding to their al  
75 ready grand total.

D.O. Sweetman's Division still stands

Adjutant Leonard, what meaneth this fall? Can it be true? The Imperial City

the matter be? Glissant forth advances  
160, putting on 50. This leaves the Divi-  
sion's total the same.

Montreal Division still stands and budge-  
not, while the Peterboro' Division takes

Adjutant Howell's domain has fallen u

130 Haste away or you'll be overtaken. Good-bye.  
143 Dr. O. McIntyre. Having started, you will  
150 soon get ahead of Major Scott. It's a risk  
of 10 W.C.; that's better than none. Go!

**STATION NOTES.**  
Poor Champion Ottawa takes a low

The two McLeans are still level. I wonder which one will move first. Capt. La

In fact, there are many stations in the Moncton Division which ought to be closed and do so right away.

V. Annapolis and Carleton should  
with each other, also St. John III. a  
Fairville. The fall of Truro is 10. Dear  
dear, dear. Now, Vancouver, can't y  
get ahead of Now Westminster?

er, but  
19. ahead of Stratford. Perrella and Strat  
roy are level. Mitchell, Forest, and Cl  
ton take the same number each. Bra  
little Tilsonburg has increased, and th  
adds another 20 to the Division's tot  
Missouri officer take the hint and

I am surprised at Ottawa's fall. How  
what about it? Perth's rise was a go-  
one. An increase of 50 is no mean number  
at least, then's my sentiments. Lach-  
will not ahead of Quebec H. Carleton

Fenelon Falls has made a bold move and comes into the List. Congratulations to Arthur. It is a good stroke of business and D.O. Bonty's heart should be cheerful.

help their D.O. to climb up the - was C  
ladder? Capt. G. Miller, will you try d  
Belleville, with an increase of 10 co  
jump over Gananoque.

...  
...  
... Lieutenants, and Cadets, ...

another U.S. ...



